



Geology Alumni

17th. ANNUAL S.D.S.U. ALUMNI FIELD TRIP EAGLE MOUNTAIN MINE, DESERT CENTER, CA.

APRIL 4, 5 & 6TH. 2003

This years Field trip / Camp Out will feature a **tour of the Eagle Mt. Mine on Saturday April 5th. at 11:00 AM.** We will not be able to take personal vehicles into the mine area and the Kaiser people can only provide transportation for about 20 people. **Therefore, those wishing to tour the mine will be entered into a drawing to be held at 10:30 AM at the mine office parking lot. Twenty people will be chosen to go on the tour which is expected to last until about 2:30 PM.** Anyone not chosen for the tour may wish to visit the General George Patton Memorial Museum located in Chiriaco Summit about 20 miles west of Desert Center or explore the canyons around the Corn Springs Camp Ground where some of us will be camped.

DIRECTIONS TO THE EAGLE MT. MINE. East on I-10 about 55 miles from Indio to the Desert Center/Rice/Parker/Hwy 177 turnoff. Turn left at the stop sign, go under freeway and stay on main road for about 300-400 yards. There will be a large green sign that directs you to the left to go to the Kaiser Mine (11 miles). Follow this road and when you get close to the housing area stay to the right when you see the "Eagle Mt. Truck Traffic/Administration Offices" sign. You will reach the mine office and entrance gate about ½ mile past the sign. You can park in the Mine Office lot or on the right side of the road before you get to the gate.

MAP. The Riverside County AAA map shows most of the roads we will use on this weekend.

CAMPING. We will be camping at the Corn Springs BLM Campground. This Campground is very small (9 regular spaces, one group site that may be able to accommodate several vehicles and an area where the campground Host used to stay that we may be able to occupy that can hold a few more vehicles). There is a fairly flat area about ½ mile to the east of the campground that may serve as an overflow for trailers or RV's. There are 2 permanent concrete block unisex restrooms at the site that are very clean. Each site has a fire ring, table and a few sites have awnings. They are small sites so we may have to double up if it gets crowded or use the area to the east. The spaces are \$6.00/day. If anyone wants me to try to save a space for them please call me a week or so before the trip so I will know what type of planning I will have to do. There will be a few people arriving in the campground Friday afternoon to try to occupy as many spaces as possible but since it's BLM operated there will be no guarantees! I expect it to be on the warm side due to "Global Warming" and there may or may not be water available so bring a tarp or other shade structure and be prepared for everything. There are some petroglyphs, mines and terrace deposits to hike to and explore in the vicinity of the campground.

DIRECTIONS to Corn Springs Campground. Go east on I-10 from Desert Center about 9.3 miles to the Corn Springs Rd. exit. Go east (left) on frontage road about 0.6 miles to the Brown BLM sign with white letters that says Corn Springs, turn right onto a graded dirt/gravel road and go about 8 miles until you reach the campground sign, follow arrows to right.

Should you not wish to rough it, Cottonwood Campground (\$10.00/night, reservations recommended 1-800-365-2267) in Joshua Tree National Park is located about 30 miles west of Desert Center and is at 3,000 feet elevation which will be cooler than the Corn Springs site. It's unfortunate that the BLM has put so much of the Desert "OFF LIMITS" to "Protect It" and in doing so eliminated some of the nicer areas where we used to be able to camp in a more relaxed atmosphere. I am not sure if this is "Progress"?

COMMUNICATIONS. We will be monitoring CB Channel 11 and the Two Meter Ham Radio Simplex frequency 146.520 Mhz plus two local repeaters (Chuckwalla 145.380 - (162.2) & Blythe 147.090 + 123.0.) This year we will also start monitoring the Family Service Radio (FRS) channel 11. If you have one of those FRS Radios now is the time to dust it off and put in fresh batteries. The range is limited so don't expect miracles! There is Nextel cell phone service in the area but I can't verify other carriers!

In DESERT CENTER there is a Restaurant open and gas available (\$2.11/gallon) 24/7. There is also a market with **minimal supplies** that is usually open from 9-5 daily and a Burger establishment east of the gas station that is open approximately 9-8 daily. At CHIRIACO SUMMIT there is also fuel available and a restaurant open 24/7. The General George Patton Memorial Museum is open daily from 9:30 - 4:30 daily. Admission is \$4.00 for adults and children under 12 are free when accompanied by an adult. If you have never seen this unusual exhibit it is worth the price to learn about the World War II training in the Mojave.

Call Joe Coronas (this year's Field Trip Chairman) if you have any questions. Day (858) 492-5034, Eve. (858) 484-3582.